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PATENT

Docket No. 4303-4003US3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jacob Richter et. al. Group Art Unit: 3731
Serial No. : 09/864,389 Examiner: Bui, Vy Q.
Filed : May 25, 2001
For : LONGITUDINALLY FLEXIBLE STENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following prior to examination of the previously elected

Claims 1-30.

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

(Amended) 1. A stent for holding open a blood vessel comprising:

a. a first loop containing section, the first loop containing section arranged generally in the circumferential direction, the loops in said first loop containing section occurring at a first frequency;

b. a second loop containing section, the second loop containing section arranged generally in the circumferential direction, the loops in said second loop containing section also occurring at said first frequency; and

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Docket No. 4303-4003US3

c. a third loop containing section the third loop containing section, the loops in said third loop containing section occurring at a second frequency that is higher than said first frequency, disposed in the generally circumferential space between said first and second loop containing sections and alternately joined to said first and second loop containing sections,

d. wherein the loops in said first, second and third loop containing sections are disposed and adapted to cooperate so that, components of said third loop containing section contribute to the cell's elongating or shortening when the stent is flexed in a vessel.

(Amended) 6. A stent for widening a vessel in the human body comprising:

a. a plurality of first circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a first frequency;

b. a plurality of second circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a second frequency higher than said first frequency, alternating with said first circumferential bands and periodically coupled thereto to form cells,

c. wherein loops in said bands are disposed and adapted to cooperate so that, the higher frequency band components contribute most of the deformation during flexing of the stent.

Please add the following claims: